



October (2017#7)

A Message From Rayjon's Field Director

The following message from Field Director, Andre, provides a sombre picture, but a useful reminder for us of some of the challenges that our Haitian partners face every day.

Andre also thanks Rayjon for its most gracious and ongoing support and for your prayers. His quote is below.

"This past year has been very difficult in Haiti. Dating back to 12 months ago, the southern part of the country was hit with a massive category-5 hurricane (hurricane Matthew), which devastated the lower southwestern parts of Haiti. Since then there have been threats of two other major category-5 hurricanes (Irma and Maria). Although they did not hit Haiti directly, they still left floods and a few damaged homes in their path.



On the political side, this year ended a 2-year redo of the <presidential> election which kept a very hostile environment in the major cities of Haiti due to political uproar. In February a president was finally sworn in, yet opposing parties are still not in agreement with the outcome of the election. This has had an impact on the smooth functioning of This has had an impact on the smooth functioning of schools, businesses, and other social activities.

As far as health care goes, during the past 12 months the public hospitals have functioned only three months out of the twelve. The doctors, nurses and other personnel of the three major hospitals in Haiti (one in Port au Prince, one in Cap Haitien, and another in St. Marc), all went on strike due to working conditions and desiring an increase in salary. This left those that cannot afford to go to a

private hospital (i.e. the majority of Haitians), without a place to get the proper health care that they deserve. Since then this problem has been resolved, yet this past year many people lives could have been saved had they had the affordable health care and service that they deserved.

This year there have also been outbreaks of cholera in the rural areas of Haiti. There were many cases in St. Marc and other rural parts of Haiti due to many regions that are still in need of clean drinking water. This is also a leading cause for malnourished children in Haiti - not having clean water and adequate food.

There are other issues that are still lingering in Haiti on top of these rising difficulties, such as unemployment, which is still at a high. The cost of living is also very high and many parents cannot afford to send their children to school. There are many sex abuse cases with young women being raped, sometimes by even their own family members.

Things are very hard on families in Haiti because the family structure is broken, the presence of the father is not there, and many single young moms who do not know much about being a parent ... raising families with as many as four or five kids.

All of these and more are some of the challenges we face in the Projects in Haiti while we are working towards: fixing the broken family structures; giving assistance to family members; educating children, adults, and parents; giving health care and trying to prevent illnesses in the long run; preparing parents and adults with life skills and building their capacities - - overall, giving Haitians hope to continue despite a country that has so many needs and challenges."

Fall Fair – Thank You

On behalf of the Fall Fair committee, I want to thank everyone who supported our Fall Fair on September 16th in any way, by donating goods, baking, by volunteering or by attending & becoming part of the magic.

Our new venue @ OLM Parish Hall was simply excellent: we welcomed a huge number of attendees & raised a record \$17,500.

Fundraising is an ongoing challenge but with our shared effort, the Rayjon Projects in Haiti & the Dominican Republic continue to flourish.

In appreciation, Dianne McKillican, Fair Convenor



We are happy to announce that the winners of the Raffle were:
Carol Muir (1st), Pat Casey (2nd), and Betty Vopicka (3rd).

Sarnia Community Foundation

We are very pleased to announce that Rayjon has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,500 from Sarnia Community Foundation. This grant will fund the “Social Justice in Community Schools” project. This local project will build awareness, foster empathy and compassion, and encourage local youth to get involved in social justice efforts. We have already received numerous requests from area teachers and schools to take part in this interactive program.



If you would like Rayjon to come visit your classroom or youth group with this high-energy presentation, please contact us at rayjonsc@gmail.com or 519-381-5929.

Eyeglass Program Appeal for Sunglasses

The Rayjon Eyeglass program is in need of both prescription and non-prescription sunglasses, with polarized lenses, to dispense to patients at our clinics in Haiti, the Caribbean and Latin America. People living in these hot sunny climates experience eye strain from excessive exposure to sunlight.



A nasty side effect of glare, eyestrain can be relieved with polarized lens wear. Squinting to see clear images stresses the eyes and creates uncomfortable eye health issues like redness, irritation,

fatigue, and headaches. Polarized lenses neutralize this issue and allow eyes to feel more comfortable and well rested.

We currently have a limited supply of donated sunglasses so if you have any you would like to donate please drop them off at the FYI doctors office at 1109 Lambton Mall Rd., Sarnia, or alternatively contact Bob Topliffe by email at bobtopliffe@gmail.com. Bob will arrange to have the glasses picked up.

How do you tell if your sunglasses are polarized or simply tinted? One way, as described in this video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nU02AnA3_k), involves viewing an LCD screen (tv, pc monitor, smart phone) while rotating the lens. When rotated at a certain angle the image through a polarized lens will darken, but it will remain unchanged if the lens is not polarized. If you're not sure, your donated sunglasses will still be gratefully received.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pastafest – Thursday, November 2nd

RAYJON SHARECARE
8th Annual **PASTAFEST**

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT
Thurs. Nov. 2, 5-7
Where: **Dante Club**
1330 London Rd., Sarnia
Why: **to support ongoing Rayjon projects in Haiti**

Tickets:
Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, beverage

Adult	Child (11 & Under)	Student (with student card)	Family (4) (2 Adults, 2 Children Under 12)
\$12	\$8	\$10	\$35

CONTACT Marlo Wright 226-886-0476
Karen Wright 519-336-7760

Rayjon Family Curling Event – Saturday November 18th

Please be generous with your pledges in your support of those that are participating in this fun, inter-generational event from 3:00 – 7:30 pm at the Sarnia Golf & Curling Club.

The goal is to raise funds for Rayjon's rural schools in Gilbert and Pinson, Haiti.

Education is key to ending poverty.

If all students in low income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.

In the rural area of Haut de St. Marc, Haiti, two elementary schools in the mountains provide quality education from preschool to grade 7, with a total enrollment of over 450 kids per year. The schools are literally bursting at the seams. The current cost for teachers' salaries, building upkeep, textbooks and curriculum development is equivalent to about \$23 per pupil.

In 2016, with the support of generous donors in Canada, Rayjon was pleased to add grade 7 at both of our rural schools. Parents are anxious for their children to have the opportunity to attend grade 8 and 9, which we hope to add over the next two years. To do so we need to raise an additional \$6,000 per year.



Please help make our family curling event fundraiser a success. For more information contact: John Barnfield at 519-337-0338 or barnfield@cogeco.ca or rayjonsc@gmail.com.

Christmas Shopping

During the first two weekends (Friday & Saturday) in December there will be a table and display set up in the Lambton Mall where you can speak to a Rayjon volunteer and also make purchases of coffee, vanilla, gift cards, and Atizani hand-crafted goods from Haiti.

Thank You!

To our many donors, we must say again a tremendous thank you. With your donation you make a lasting change to the lives of people in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

To Donate Online:

[**DONATE NOW**](#)

One time or monthly options

Tax receipt and Record of your online donations immediately available

Mail Cheques To:

Rayjon Share Care, PO Box 2482, Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7T1.

Special Donation Request:

Instead of our usual promotion for the sale of gift cards, vanilla, coffee and atizani crafts, Rayjon is

making an appeal to our membership concerning the need for a couple of laptops, a projector, and smartphones for use in Haiti and the DR. In our rapidly evolving world of high-tech digital toys and tools, you may know a business or individual who is contemplating an upgrade. Making a donation of redundant, but still functioning equipment would be very useful to our project teams. (portable laptops only, please not desktops, and they should be capable of running Microsoft Office and Windows 10).



Ask us about a charitable tax receipts for your donation.

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